



U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T

Partnership of International Center for Development and Decent Work, University of Kassel, Germany with Egerton University of Kenya (2009- 2016)

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1. About Egerton University

1.1 Historical Background

The Egerton University is the oldest institution of higher education in Kenya. It was founded as a Farm School in 1939 by Lord Maurice Egerton of Tatton, a British national who settled in Kenya in the 1920s. In 1950, the School was upgraded to an Agricultural College offering diploma programmes. The Egerton Agricultural College Ordinance was enacted in 1955. In 1979, the Government of Kenya and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded a major expansion of the institution. In 1986, Egerton Agricultural College was gazetted as a constituent college of the University of Nairobi. The following year, 1987, marked the establishment of Egerton University through an Act of Parliament.

Egerton University has established a series of local and international partnerships and linkages in research, teaching, and industry. Some achievements include: development of University Botanic Garden; establishment of Local Council of International Reading Association (IRA); setting up of Egerton University Community Resource Centre; hosting the Secretariat of the African Council for Distance Education; and the development and introduction of a joint program in Governance, Ethics, Anti-Corruption, and Economic Crimes with what is now the Kenya Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Other achievements of the University include establishment of; the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies, Directorates of Quality Assurance, Planning and Development, Student Welfare Services, Institutional Advancement, International Linkages and Programmes, the University Industry Liaison Office (UILO),. African Virtual University (AVU) Centre, The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL), and Egerton Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education and the Egerton Journal of Science and Technology as international peer-reviewed periodicals.¹

1.2 Faculties and Institutes

Egerton University has three Campuses and one Campus College. The main Campus is based at Njoro and houses the Faculties of Agriculture, Arts and Social Sciences, Education and Community Studies, Engineering and Technology, Environment and Resources Development, Science and Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. The Njoro Campus also houses the Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment, and the Board of Postgraduate Studies. The

¹ Egerton University, 2015: <http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Chancellor/our-profile.html>

other Campus is the Nairobi City Campus, offering programs from the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Commerce, and Education and Community Studies. It also hosts the African Centre for Distance Education (ACDE). The third Campus, Kenyatta Campus, is located five kilometers from Njoro Campus and is planned to house the Open and Distance Learning (CODL) programme, which is currently based at Njoro Campus. The only University Campus College, Nakuru Town Campus College, hosts the Faculties of Commerce and Health Sciences. The University currently has nine faculties and fifty-one academic departments offering a wide range of programs at diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels. All of them are open to both Government-sponsored and self-sponsored students. The University also offers courses in computer literacy, computer repairs and maintenance, as well as accounting and bridging courses.²

1.2.1 Faculty of Agriculture

The Faculty of Agriculture (FOA) is a strong pillar of Egerton University. The FOA enjoys high quality of training, research, networking and extension in the country and region. The FOA is the foundation of agricultural training, research, innovation and business in the region.

FOA has ensured that all aspects of agricultural training are covered in its 5 Diploma, 10 Bachelor (BSc), 17 Master (MSc), 9 PhD and several tailor made short and executive courses. These programmes have drawn trainees from the national, regional and international platform.

Its research portfolio speaks volumes of the obsession for solutions towards food security and sustainable resource use.³

1.2.2 Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology

The Faculty of Environment and Resource Development (FERD) is comprised of three departments, the Department of Environmental Science, Department of Geography and Department of Natural Resources.

In the face of climate change, water scarcity, energy challenges, urban sprawl, pollution, over-consumption, waste management, diminishing natural resources, species extinction (rapid global environmental change) - solutions to these issues require new approaches in meeting the needs of learners. The Faculty of Environment and Resource Development (FERD) at

² Egerton University, 2015: <http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Chancellor/our-profile.html>

³ Egerton Faculty of Agriculture, 2015: <http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Faculty-of-Agriculture/faculty-of-agriculture.html>

Egerton University critically examine these and other environmental problems to design solutions that are tenable and sustainable.⁴

1.2.3 The Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS)

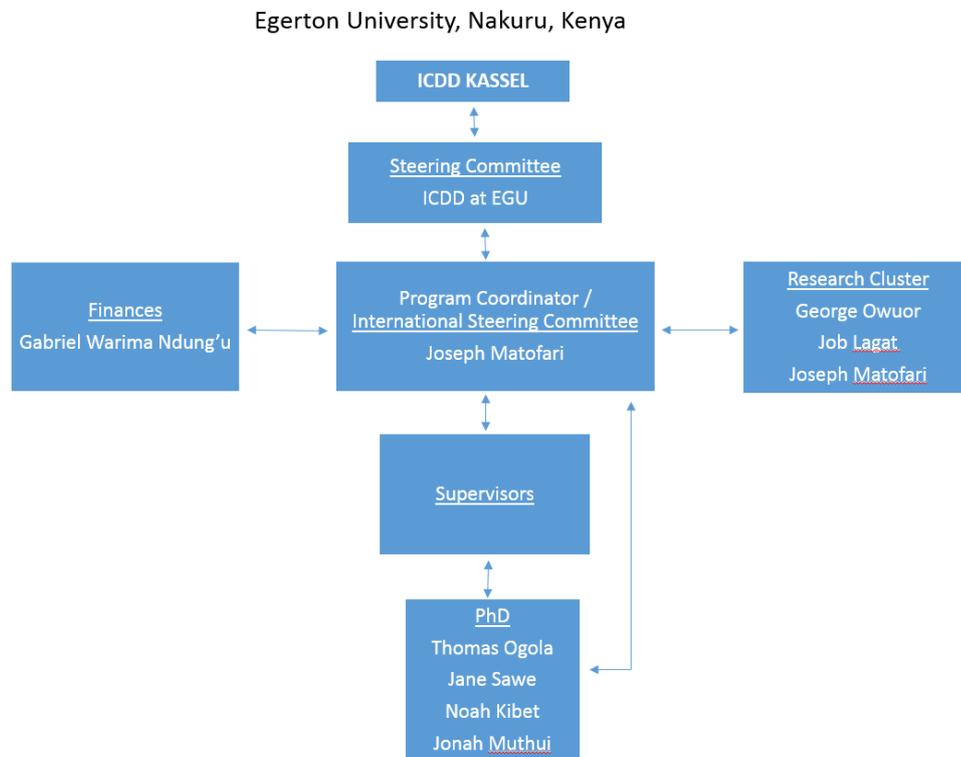
The Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) was established in 1991 as the Centre for Women Studies and Gender Analysis to address and respond to the demands and challenges faced by female students in their pursuit for academic excellence. The concept was mooted as a result of pressure from female students with unique gender concerns on campus to have them addressed by the University. Some of the grievances included unwanted pregnancies, sexual harassment, student leadership representation as well as underrepresentation in science based curriculum such as Engineering and Medicine courses. In addition, there was a need to create a forum not just for socialization but also for debates and discussions on gender issues. In May 1992 the Centre was formally launched and placed under the general authority of an advisory committee. Later, it was approved by Egerton University and in the Country's development plan to carry out research, training and outreach programmes, under the Division of Research and Extension. The Centre has since been up-graded to the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies with full mandate to offer academic programmes under the Academic Division.⁵

⁴ Egerton Faculty of Environment and Resource Development, 2015:
<http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Faculty-of-Environment-and-Resources-Development/faculty-of-environment-and-resources-development.html>

⁵ Egerton Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies, 2015:
www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Institute-of-Gender-and-Women-Development/institute-of-gender-and-women-development.html

2. ICDD and Egerton Partnership

The ICDD and Egerton University have been successfully working together since 2009. ICDD and Egerton partnership involves various types of activities including study programs, exchange of students and faculties, research, conferences, workshops, among others.



Organogram: ICDD-EGU, 2015

2.1 The DAAD exceed Program

ICDD has been conducting different research projects with Egerton University within the DAAD exceed program (Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation). The programme aims at supporting German Higher Education Institutions (HEI) together with their partners in developing countries. Support is given to those institutions that contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other goals of development cooperation policy in an innovative manner. The aim is to strengthen the HEIs in the domains of education, research and consultancy. The major concerns of the programme are:

- bringing together working units in the HEIs with a direct linkage to the MDGs;
- expanding education and research on issues of relevance to the cooperation in development policies in German and the partner country HEIs;

- increasing the visibility of activities related to the MDGs in the general public in Germany and DCs;
- constructing Competence Centers for development cooperation by developing excellent research that can serve as a scientific "lighthouse", is internationally attractive and competitive;
- strengthening north-south as well as south-south cooperation in higher education and research; and
- expanding policy analysis and consultancy on issues in development cooperation in developing countries and Germany.

By these activities, researchers and institutes are encouraged to continue and expand their commitment in development cooperation. The competence centers are meant to become think tanks for development co-operation that develop approaches for the solution of global/local challenges and transfer them to policy makers, donors and practitioners.

2.2 Study Programs

2.2.1 PhD program

The ICDD's objective is to generate and transfer knowledge on how to create and improve work and income opportunities in rural and urban regions in developing countries in light of globalization, climate change and urbanization processes. PhD projects are rooted in either the natural or social sciences and focus primarily on actor- and problem-oriented research on sustainable human-environmental relationships and decent livelihoods. Currently (2016), about 25 doctoral candidates within the graduate school are pursuing PhDs at the seven ICDD partner universities.

PhD Alumni/Fellows

- **Jane Sawe (2010-2013):** Evaluation of Urban Dairy Farming and Its Contribution to Decent Work in Nakuru Municipality, Kenya. Supervisors: Dr. Isaac Kosgey and Prof. Eva Schlecht.
- **Thomas Ogola (2011-2014):** Rural-Urban Linkages for Trade in Dairy Milk: Market Chain Analysis in Dairy Milk. Supervisors: Dr. Isaac Kosgey and Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kaufmann.
- **Justus Ochieng (2011-2014):** Agricultural Market Orientation Strategies, Intensification and Food Security in Great Lakes Region of Central Africa. Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Béatrice Knerr and Dr. Owuor George.

- **Noah Kibet (2014-):** Uptake and effect of global-gap standards on livelihoods of smallholder farmers: the case of women producing tomatoes in Kenya. Supervisors: Prof. Gideon Obare and Prof. Dr. Angelika Plöger.
- **Jonah Muthui (2015-):** Determination of Decent Work Status and Intertemporal Synergy Associated with Integrated Production among Smallholders in Western Kenya. Supervisors: Prof. Joseph Matofari and Dr. Christian Hülsebusch.

2.2.2 Master Programme

Within the framework of ICDD project, the master students of the partner universities have the opportunity to have an exchange semester at the ICDD. In 2009, two Master students from the Egerton University participated in this programme; Boniface M. Nduma, and Simion K. Omasaki.

For an overview on the programmes offered at Egerton University, please visit the following link:<http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Summary-of-Programmes/summary-of-programmes.html>

2.3 Ela-Bhatt Professorship and Guest Lectureships

Ela-Bhatt visiting Professor

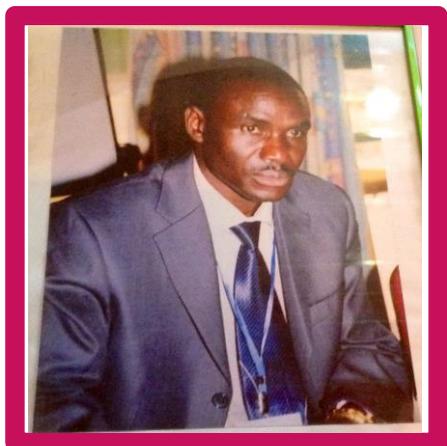


Prof. Joseph Matofari:⁶He was honored as an ICDD Ela Bhatt Visiting Professor in 2016. His research and teaching stay at the ICDD-Witzenhausen was between 15.04.2016 – 15.07.2016. Besides his academic and research cooperation at Witzenhausen, he held two public lectures at the ICDD-Kassel,

- 1) “Assessing Decent Work Status in smallholder food value chains; namely; Cereals, Dairy and Fruits and Vegetables in Kenya” and,
- 2) “Universities and research push the agricultural sector in Kenya towards food security”

⁶Prof. Joseph Matofari. Available in: <http://www.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/Dairy-Food-Science-and-Technology/joseph-w-matofari-phd.html> , used with permission.

Visiting Professors



Prof. George Owuor:⁷Prof. George Owuor was involved in teaching seminars and supervision of ICDD PhD students from 4 September to 31 October 2010. He was also involved in the ICDD's PhD and graduate student methods workshop, which he led a discussion on Williamson's text on transaction cost economics and its relevance to development and decent work related analysis. In collaboration with faculty members, he prepared and submitted two project proposals for the ICDD Research Cluster Call 2011. Other activities included submitting a project proposal to the Volkswagen foundation with Prof. Oliver Hensel and sharing his research experience during seminars held at DITSL in Witzenhausen.

Prof. Joseph Matofari (2009 and 2016)

- During his stay, Prof. Joseph Matofari was involved in Lectures in MSc and MA programmes that related to: Structure of resource poor food supply chains in developing countries.
- Dairy and meat value chains in (Peri-) urban and rural areas.
- Perishable food items – biological, physical and chemical characteristics.
- Microbial decay of perishable food items.
- HACCP for perishable food value chains in developing countries.
- Laboratory analysis methods – standard methods and low cost quick tests.
- Low cost appropriate technology methods for treatment and preservation of perishable food items.
- Appropriate quality management strategies for resource poor actors in the informal sector of food supply chains in developing countries.

From 15 April to 15 July 2016 he contributed to the teaching at the ICDD for the Graduate School and MA programmes, he has also undertaken postgraduate research student supervision, and contributed to the ICDD team at Witzenhausen to cutting edge research in his area of expertise.

⁷ Prof. George Owuor, ICDD files, used with permission.

3. Research

3.1 Joint Research Projects

The ICDD network worked along three main research clusters in the first phase of cooperation (2009-2014), responding to (1) Sustainable Value Creation for Decent Work, (2) Instruments for Promoting Decent Work, and (3) Strategies for Empowerment for Decent Work.

In the second phase (2015-2019), there is a shift towards an enhanced cooperation between agricultural and social disciplines/sciences within the network, implementing 5 new research lines in the agenda: (1) Decent work along agricultural value chains, (2) Organizing the informal economy, (3) Extractivism and rural welfare, (4) Rural-urban linkages: transformation processes, livelihoods, and social protection, (5) Rethinking development cooperation.

The ICDD and Egerton University developed joint research projects, some of them are currently under development as well. All joint projects relate to sustainable agricultural development and its relation to decent work and are comprehended within the first area of research: Decent work along agricultural value chains.

3.1.1 Research Projects

- **Supply chain governance: A decent work approach to optimize the mango value chain system (within Global Agricultural Production Systems Project) (2015 -)**

Project leaders: Prof. Dr. Joseph Matofari (EGU), Dr. Mubashir Mehdi (UAF), Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer (University of Kassel)

The project is a joint cooperation with the counterparts at the University of Agriculture of Faisalabad (UAF), at Egerton University (EGU) and the University of Kassel. The Kenyan part of the project intends to understand how the governance of the mango value chain operators and how it influences the organizational structures and the performance of the mango industry in Kenya.

Mango is the second most important fruit in terms of production in Kenya after bananas, employing about 2 million people annually. This sector is dominated by small holder farmers who constitute 80% of the growers and forms 60% of export market. Past research on mango has concentrated on varietal introduction of high yielding varieties. However, the adoption rate has been low, there is lack of knowledge on agronomic practices, and value addition and the export market have been low. The proposed study aims at assessing the needs and governance of the mango value chain operators and how these influence the organizational

structures and the performance of the mango industry in Kenya. This is because the rights of value chain actors have received little attention and could contribute to the decline in mango exports from Kenya. It will involve identifying decent work deficits, and work into enhancing labour standards through policy advocacy. In Kenya, the study is limited to Makueni and Kwale counties, which are the largest mango producers in the country. A mixed methodology approach through qualitative and quantitative data and information documentation using specific research tools such as focused group discussions, structured questionnaire, and observations are the applied methods and tools for data collection⁸.

3.1.2 Research Clusters

- **Research Cluster1 “Working conditions along agricultural value chains” by Dr. Brigitte Kaufmann and Dr. Christian Hülsebusch (2010-2014)**

Within this research cluster, two studies were carried out:

1. “Working conditions of pastoralists and workers employed on commercial ranches”.

About 80% of Kenya’s land surface is classified as arid and semi- arid area. These dry land areas are predominantly used for land-based livestock production. Cattle, sheep, goats and camels are kept either in pastoral (mobile) production systems or in commercial ranches. Pastoralists use communal land whereas ranch land is privately owned. Pastoralists are self-employed and livestock production is their main livelihood strategy. Due to several - often external - reasons, part of the pastoralists have settled and diversified their livelihood strategies, a development that was mostly accompanied by impoverishment. Although ranches use more capital-intensive ways of production, labor is an important input. The two systems can be linked in various ways, e.g. ranches might provide a market outlet for livestock raised by pastoralists. Ranches also provide employment opportunities, especially for impoverished pastoralists. The study therefore aims at the comparative assessment of working conditions in “functioning” pastoral production systems, “settled” pastoral production systems and on commercial ranches.

2. “Livelihood activities of agro-pastoralists in Mabalane District, Mozambique”

The majority of the rural population in Mozambique’s marginal areas depends on agriculture and livestock based activities as main livelihood strategies. Mainly due to lack of capital and poor infrastructure, low external input systems are predominant. The Limpopo River basin in Mozambique is a remote area that borders South Africa. It is an area known by the exportation

⁸ Text presented in the project application (Matofari, 2015).

of male labor, mainly to South Africa. It is a semi-arid area and occurrence of droughts in this region is at an increasing rate. Families suffer from temporally severe food insecurity (Brito et al, 2009). Major droughts affecting the Limpopo Basin in the period 1980-2002 occurred in the years of 1980, 1981-83, 1983-84, 1994-95 and 2002-2010 (Leira and McNabb 2002). This situation is aggravated through pressures such as population growth, resource degradation and climate change. Hence this framework calls for efforts towards the empowerment of poor rural households, as one sustainable alternative in order to escape from poverty and to achieve rural development. Therefore the proposed research aims at promoting social learning - a strategy of empowerment - to improve living and working conditions of smallholders in a semi-arid area in Mozambique.

For more details and findings of these research projects, please see:

<https://www.uni-kassel.de/einrichtungen/international-center-for-development-and-decent-work-icdd/research/research-2009-2014/sustainable-value-creation-for-dw.html>

- **Research Cluster2: Creation of Decent Work Employment in Rural Areas of Laikipia (Kenya) through Ecotourism, with a special focus on village communities – Prof. Owuor, Prof. Knerr and Dr. Hülsebusch (2013-2014)**

This study intends to find out the potential of local communities to participate in eco-tourism activities in marginal regions focusing on Laikipia District, a low-income region in Kenya. Experience has shown that eco-tourism in Laikipia is attractive for international tourists and has considerable profit potential. However, the local population participates only to a moderate extend, as employment possibilities are largely offered by tourist lodges owned by outside companies, while self-employment initiatives mostly by NGOs, like producing and marketing of handicrafts are isolated and without further forward and backward linkages. An initiative of the government aims at integrating whole village communities into the tourism business to create income possibilities and the same time avoid human-wildlife conflicts. The project investigates the potential of community-based initiatives to supply goods and services to tourists and thus contribute to livelihood security and decent employment within the village community. In particular it explores the experiences made so far in communities which had been included the integration program. The research is largely based on surveys among four communities in different distances to tourism hotspots, two of them are included in the government program, and two are not. It has a pilot character and should be the basis for applying for a larger research project.

For more details on this project and its main findings, please visit:

<https://www.uni-kassel.de/einrichtungen/international-center-for-development-and-decent-work-icdd/research/research-2009-2014/instruments-for-promoting-dw/creation-of-decent-work-employment-in-rural-areas-of-laikipia-kenya-through-eco-tourism-with-a-special-focus-on-village-communities.html>

3.2 Publications⁹

Ochieng, J., Owuor, G. and Bebe, B.O. (2012). Determinants of Adoption of Management Interventions for Enhancing Productivity of Indigenous Chicken in Africa: A Case study of Western Kenya, *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AfJARE)* 7(1), 39-50.

Ochieng, J., et. al. (2011). Effect of Management Interventions on Productive Performance of Indigenous Chicken in Western Kenya. *Livestock Research for Rural Development* 23 (5), 115.

Ochieng, J., Owuor, G. and Bebe, B.O. (2010). Influence of management intervention adoption behaviour of smallholders on productivity of indigenous chicken flock in Western Kenya, *The Family Poultry* 19 (1), 11-15.

Ogola, T., Nguyo, W. and Kosgey, I. (2010). Economic contribution and viability of dairy goats: Implications for a breeding programme, *Tropical Animal Health and Production Journal*, 42 (5), 875-885.

Ogola, T., Nguyo, W. and Kosgey, I. (2010). Dairy goat production practices in Kenya: Implications for a breeding programme, *Livestock Research for Rural Development* 22 (1), Article 16.

⁹ Note that these are exemplary of the work developed. Not all publications are listed in this section.

3.3 Cooperation with other partner universities in the ICDD Network

- **South-South Visiting Lectureship (2016)**



Stakeholder workshop at Mohammad Nawaz Sharif University Multan (MNSUAM) 18 August 2016. By Mubashir Mehdi, ICDD files

Within the framework of the joint research agenda, and the ICDD “Short-term Visiting Lecturer Program”¹⁰, Prof. Dr. Matofari participated in activities related to the project at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad between August 15 and August 22, 2016.

The activities involved workshops on the mango value chain as well as field visits.

- **Supply chain governance: A decent work approach to optimize the mango value chain system (within Global Agricultural Production Systems Project) (2015 -)**

As mentioned in point 3.1.1, the subproject “Supply chain governance: A decent work approach to optimize the mango value chain system” implies the cooperation between 2 of the ICDD’s partner universities: the University of Agriculture of Faisalabad and Egerton University. The project’s leaders –Dr. Mubashir Mehdi and Prof. Joseph Matofari respectively- are developing further the scope of study of the joint project and foresee to include other partner scientists within the Global Agricultural Production Systems network. The aim being the identification of the social and political issues that inhibit to improve the performance of horticultural enterprises along the mango value chain and devise a framework that can guide the commercial operators

¹⁰On the Visiting Lecturer Program, please visit: <http://www.uni-kassel.de/einrichtungen/international-center-for-development-and-decent-work-icdd/resources-funding/funding-and-scholarships.html>

and policy makers to create environment for decent work and ensure solid economic foundations for local economic development/sustainable productivity. Likewise, the project was designed as to compliment two other running international projects on mango value chain market development factors that Dr. Mehdi (UAF) coordinates. A complementary objective has hence been developed: government institutions capacity building. To do so, the research team has implemented the following design for the two years span: scoping study to appraise the basis of poor value chain governance; followed by conducting market research in the selected markets; capacity building of workers, employers and government agencies to facilitate an “aggregated value chain thinking”; and building a model of value chain that can demonstrate the benefits of decent work at the wider level in the industry.

- **South-South Visiting Lectureship (2013)**

In October and November 2013, Dr. Muhammad Tariq from the ICDD partner University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), was granted a two-months teaching stay at Egerton University. During his time as PhD student (2009-2013) he had been funded by the Higher Education Committee of Pakistan but, due to his ICDD-relevant research topic (peri-urban dairy production in Faisalabad) he had been associated to the ICDD as a PhD student. During his two-month stay at Egerton, Dr. Tariq engaged in teaching at the MSc and PhD level there, supported PhD students in data analysis and acted as co-supervisor of three MSc theses. Based on the positive experience with his stay, Egerton University intends to intensify the collaboration with the UAF comprising joint research activities, further student supervision, and cooperation in mutual external examination of young academics.

4. Conferences and Workshops

- **Kwale County, Dissemination Workshop, August 23, 2015**

Within the framework of the “Supply chain governance: A decent work approach to optimize the mango value chain system” project, a dissemination workshop took place in the Kwale County (Kenya). The aim of the workshop was to disseminate practices of decent work among the producers/workers of the mango chain in the County of Kwale, following the preliminary findings of the team.

- **Makweni County, Stakeholders Workshop, August 19, 2015**

Within the framework of the “Supply chain governance: A decent work approach to optimize the mango value chain system” project, a stakeholders workshop took place in the Makweni County (Kenya). The aim of the workshop was to disseminate practices of decent work among the producers/workers of the mango chain in the County of Makweni, following the preliminary findings of the team. The occasion served as well as a meeting point with the relevant stakeholders.

- **Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop, September 28, 2014**

This workshop was carried out within the Research Cluster “Creation of Decent Work Employment in rural areas of Laikipia (Kenya) through eco-tourism, with a special focus on village communities”.

The Workshop “Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop” took place on 28 September 2014 in the IBIS Hotel in Nanyuki, Kenya.

- **Dissemination Workshop, and December 13, 2014**

A second workshop was developed within the same research project that year: the “Dissemination Workshop” was held on 13 December 2014 and took place in the Twala-Women Community Tourist Lodge & Artifacts, Nanyuki.



ICDD-EGU Projects. EGU and ICDD files.

- **ICDD-Ecotourism Project, Kick-Off Workshop, September 29, 2013¹¹**

The ICDD in collaboration with Egerton University (EGU) developed a project on Ecotourism for Livelihoods in the Arid and Semi-Arid Region of Kenya. The project focuses on how poor rural communities living close to tourist attractions can participate in eco-tourism through decent work creation, while respecting their socio-ecological limitations; the potential of those selected communities to supply services and goods demanded by tourists in this special segment, possibilities to mobilize villagers into group activities and identify eco-tourism based local products and services that can be integrated into tourists' activities and provide local forward and backward linkages, possibilities to create village-based enterprises through participatory work that would include processing and selling points within the villages, possibilities to link the village groups and enterprises with tourist accommodations and other tourist destinations in the area, and possibilities of providing village accommodation for certain tourist segments. The aim is to enable the pastoral community around the tourist attractions in the Laikipia District gain entrepreneurial skills, engage in profitable small-scale tourism businesses that are beneficial to the community, the hotels and the tourists as key customers.

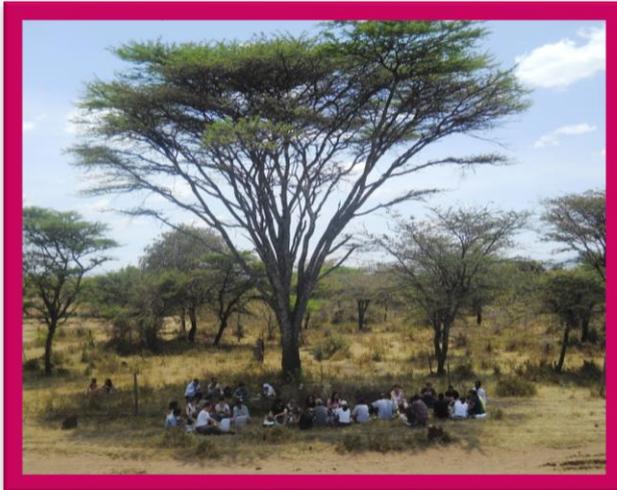
The kick off workshop was aimed at giving an overview of the project goals where key stakeholders attend. The workshop objectives were: -to illuminate the goal and objectives of the project; - initiate engagement with the key stakeholders in the region; - create a consultative framework on how to go about the participatory survey, learning and group discussions in the community in view of building entrepreneurial skills and initiatives for ecotourism among the

¹¹We thank the ICDD-EGU Team for sharing pictures taken in the occasion for the ICDD network.

community; - gain from other suggestions on extended funding opportunities for up scaling the project; and - act as ground breaking session for the survey work.

- **ICDD Graduate School PhD Workshop 2012¹²**

The PhD workshop “Applying Concepts and Methods” of the ICDD Graduate School was held at the University of Egerton from 18th to the 24th of March 2012.



During the workshop, the newly admitted PhD students (2012 cohort) were made familiar with basic terms and themes underpinning ICDD research and teaching, such as the development of the decent work agenda of the ILO, decent work as an issue in labor politics as well as in agriculture or the interdisciplinary approach of the ICDD. The discussions in the sessions are built around the “food crisis”, or “food (in-) security” respectively, while exploring different concepts like “human rights”, “human ecology”, “political economy regimes” or the “multiple crisis” with regard to their contribution and limits in understanding this problem. Moreover, the workshop included several working groups on the application of methods and concepts with more direct relevance to the particular PhD research projects, like interview analysis, value-chain analysis or the operationalization of “decent work” in food production. These working groups were accompanied by PhD project discussions, in which each candidate presented his/her current state of research. Feedback on this came not only from fellow students, but also from ICDD faculty members providing individual advice and comments on each presentation. Apart from this, some off-topic sessions on important overall themes of relevance to the PhD students found their way into the workshop program, like publication strategies or epistemology as well as various talks with a particular focus on the host country in relation to the food crisis and decent work. .

¹²We thank the ICDD-EGU Team for sharing pictures taken in the occasion for the ICDD network.

Professors and Scholars

- **Prof. Dr. Alexander K. Kahi**

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) EGU

Deputy vice chancellor of academic affairs and professor of animal breeding and genomics at EGU. His research interests are Genetic and economic aspects of breeding indigenous animal genetic resources, genetic improvement, breeding objectives, computer simulation, genetic evaluation, experimental and observational quantitative genetics, genomics, health and disease resistance, value chains analysis and development.

- **Prof. Dr. Job Lagat**

Department of Agricultural Economics (EGU/AGRODEP)

AGRODEP (African Growth for Development and Policy) member since April 2011 and an Associate professor at EGU. His research interests include climate change, commercialization of smallholder agriculture, and productivity. He teaches and supervises theses for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Prof. Lagat also worked for the Ministry of Agriculture.

- **Prof. Dr. Joseph W. Matofari**

Faculty of Agriculture (EGU, ICDD, KIFST)

Associate Dean of the faculty of Agriculture (EGU)

Associate professor at EGU and faculty member at ICDD. His field of specialization is in food microbiology and safety, food biotechnology, sanitation and waste management in food processing. He is also a member of several organizations such as Kenya Society of Microbiology (KSM) and Executive member of the Kenya Institute of Food Science and Technology (KIFST), Also a member of the Food Science and Technology platform of Kenya (FoSTeP-Kenya, an affiliate member of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST)

- **Prof. Dr. George Owuor**

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agri-business Management (EGU)

The chairman of the Agricultural Economics and Agri-business management

Associate Professor at Egerton University. His research interests are Participatory Impact Assessment (IA) research work covering crop and livestock value chains including micro-credit and rural agricultural enterprise development as well as land use management.

- **PhD Fellow Noah Kibet**
- **PhD Fellow Jonah Muthui**
- **Dr. Justus Ochieng**
- **Dr. Thomas Ogola**
- **Dr. Jane Sawe**